

"(5) SUBSEQUENT ELIGIBILITY.—

"(A) REGAINING ELIGIBILITY.—An individual denied eligibility under paragraph (2) shall remain eligible to participate in the food stamp program if, during a 30-day period, the individual

"(i) works 80 or more hours;

"(ii) participates in and complies with the requirements of a work program for 80 or more hours, as

determined by a State agency; or

"(iii) participates in and complies with the requirements of a program under section 20 or a comparable program established by a State or political subdivision of a State.

"(B) MAINTAINING ELIGIBILITY.—An individual who regains eligibility under subparagraph (A) shall remain eligible as long as the individual meets the requirements of subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of paragraph (2).

"(C) LOSS OF EMPLOYMENT.—

"(i) **IN GENERAL.—**An individual who regained eligibility under subparagraph (A) and who no longer meets the requirements of subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of paragraph (2) shall remain eligible for a consecutive 3-month period, beginning on the date the individual first notifies the State agency that the individual no longer meets the requirements of subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of paragraph (2).

"(ii) **LIMITATION.—**An individual shall not receive any benefits pursuant to clause (i) for more than a

single 3-month period in any 36-month period.

"(6) OTHER PROGRAM RULES.—Nothing in this subsection shall make an individual eligible for benefits under this Act if the individual is not otherwise eligible for benefits under the other provisions of this Act."

7 USC 2015 note.
36-month

(b) TRANSITION PROVISION.—The term "preceding period" in section 6(0) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as added by subsection (a), does not include, with respect to a State, any period before the earlier of—

(1) the date the State notifies recipients of

food stamp benefits of the application of section 6(0); or

(2) the date that is 3 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 825. ENCOURAGEMENT OF ELECTRONIC
BENEFIT TRANSFER
SYSTEMS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(i) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2016(i)) is amended—

(1) by striking "(i)(l)(A) Any State" and all that follows through the end of paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

"(i) ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFERS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—

"(A) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than October 1, 2002, each State agency shall implement an electronic benefit transfer system under which household benefits determined under section 8(a) or 26 are issued from and stored in a central databank, unless the Secretary provides a waiver for a State agency that faces unusual barriers to implementing an electronic benefit transfer system.